



NEWS RELEASE: USQ TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING SEASON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**US QUIDDITCH TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING SEASON DUE TO
COVID-19**

Charleston, W.V. — After consulting with the Board of Directors and year-round staff, US Quidditch has decided to temporarily suspend the 2019-20 season. This includes postponing US Quidditch Cup 13 (which was originally scheduled for April 18-19), and all other official play.

We encourage players to refrain from unofficial competition and to only host and/or participate in practices in accordance with the mandates issued by their given local and/or state government and remind everyone to be safe if attending any public gatherings. We recommend following the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 guidelines [here](#), and the World Health Organization (WHO) COVID-19 guidelines [here](#).

As we continue our evaluation process, we are looking at alternative dates for USQ Cup 13, evaluating weekends in late May and June. We recognize that changing plans is a complicated undertaking, and that there may not be another date that works for all teams. Feedback will be gathered from players, officials, volunteers, and spectators to identify what other dates would be best, and we will update our website with more information about that process over the coming days.

All ticket sales and registration fees for the original April date are refundable. Information on ticket refunds will be available next week.

We will reevaluate the temporary suspension of official non-USQ hosted events the week of March 30 and more information will be shared at that time on our website and emailed out to members, fans, and others on our [email list](#).

“This was a difficult decision to make. Safety is our number one priority and it’s our responsibility as a national governing body to take proactive measures to ensure our programs

and events don't contribute to the spread of COVID-19. Please know that quidditch is not going away; we're just taking a pause," said Mary Kimball, USQ's executive director.

Background

Throughout the week, USQ staff have met with representatives from the Shawnee Sports Complex and vendors in Charleston, West Virginia to begin the process of identifying alternative dates for USQ Cup 13. We have been monitoring recommendations from public health agencies, including the CDC and the WHO. Staff have also been monitoring containment measures being taken by universities, government agencies, sports leagues, and other event producers.

On March 12, staff requested an emergency board meeting to discuss the escalating situation. The meeting was held that night. Staff recommended that USQ temporarily suspend the season, and the board supported their decision. USQ's Board of Directors regularly meets once a month. March's meeting was already scheduled for March 14. This meeting will still be held and the board will continue to discuss the situation.

The decision to temporarily suspend the season was made in response to a number of factors, including growing concerns over public safety, the increased number of public gathering and event restrictions being set by local and state governments, and the number of collegiate teams at universities that have prohibited travel and/or moved to online-only courses

We would like to thank our partners in Charleston for their support, especially the Shawnee Sports Complex and Kanawha County Commission. They have been working tirelessly behind the scenes all week to facilitate communication between USQ and other key stakeholders. They have also been incredibly gracious and supportive during our decision-making process.

Questions

- Members: membership@usquidditch.org
 - Members can also contact their regional coordinator.
- Fans and general public: info@usquidditch.org
- Press inquiries: press@usquidditch.org

About US Quidditch

US Quidditch (USQ), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and the national governing body for the sport of quidditch, organizes US Quidditch Cup. USQ advances the sport by organizing events and programs that build community and empower all genders to compete together. US Quidditch is not affiliated with JK Rowling, Warner Bros., or Time Warner. To learn more about quidditch, visit www.usquidditch.org.

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